"TEMPLARY IS THE NEW TESTAMENT OF MASONRY"

THE TEMPLAR

A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Official publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

GEORGE A. WEEKS, *Grand Recorder* HARRIE M. TAFT, *Grand Commander*

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EMINENT SIRS AND SIR KNIGHTS:

As many of you know, I have long felt that there is much merit in Templar visiting. That many of you also feel the same way is evidenced by the large suites which seem to be the rule at Inspections this year.

To the local Commandery, a good turn-out of visitors proves a real inspiration, and what better publicity can we have than for word to get around a community that there was standing room only at the Commandery Conclave? To Past Commanders who turn out, there is the lift that comes with renewing old friendships, and by keeping in touch with changes as they take place, there is less likelihood of one becoming a "has-been". For the line officers who visit, there is the opportunity to learn - to see how someone else does the same work that you do - and here, too, is the chance to meet your corresponding officer in sister Commanderies, which can mean much to you as the years go by and you advance together. For the regular Sir Knights on the sidelines, visiting can mean one of the best means of fellowship I know of. To sit around the table, to enjoy food as it is differently cooked and served, to exchange experiences with the Sir Knights across from you, and to witness the work in different asylums, can be one of the real enjoyments you can get from Templary.

Along this same line, I would encourage exchange visits between Commanderies. Some other Masonic bodies find triangular visitations very successful. The idea is well worth being tried to a greater extent in our Order. Where a Commandery is so located as to make it practical, exchange visits with nearby Commanderies of other jurisdictions might well be tried. (This can be arranged by dispensation, if you are going to do any work.) It is that which is just a little different from the usual which helps to get more Sir Knights on the sidelines - it has advertising value. (The visitation idea should not be used to make it necessary for officers to learn and put on the ritual themselves.)

I hope you will continue to assure large suites at Inspections, and the time schedule has been so arranged as to make it easy for you. With dinner at 6:30, no long speeches, and closing by 9:15, you should have little difficulty in attending any Inspection within 40 miles and be home at a very reasonable hour.

I hope to be seeing YOU as I visit about.

Courteously,

HARRIE M. TAFT, Grand Commander.

HISTORICAL NOTE FROM CALVARY COMMANDERY No.13:

At our November Conclave, we were greatly honored in having as our guests Rt. Em. Sir Alton S. Johnson, Grand Commander of Maine; Rt. Em. Sir John Masterton, Grand Commander of Connecticut; Rt. Em. Sir Harrie M. Taft, Grand Commander of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. They took part in ritual at the triangle on Sir Philip S. Webber, our star candidate for November. To the best of our knowledge, this event was unprecedented in the annals of Calvary, and inquiry has failed to bring to light a similar happening in other Commanderies. Sir Knights, it truly was one of those things you read about but never see or take part in, and happens only once in a lifetime. Those of you who were not present at our November Conclave missed an historical event in Calvary, where there is something doing all the time. Come down and get into the swing of things.

Ray Trusdale, Commander.

EXCERPTS FROM THE ADDRESS OF SIR KNIGHT WILLIAM CATRON GORDON, MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT OUR ANNUAL CONCLAVE, HELD IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31,1953

This is the time when the Grand Master talks shop. That's what we are engaged in at these Conclaves - to discuss the business and the plans and things of that sort. I want to talk to you briefly about the Templar work and what it means, what some of its objectives are and what its plans for the future are. This Grand Jurisdiction occupies a unique position. You are the dean of all the Jurisdictions of the Grand Encampment. You were organized in 1805. You occupy the first position in seniority, therefore, naturally, other Jurisdictions look up to Massachusetts and Rhode Island because of that deanship position and your long experience in Templary; because you are actively at work, and your loyalty and your results are commendable.

We have two objectives. No organization is worth much unless it does have some worthwhile objectives, and every proper organization that continues to do constructive work does have its objectives. One of those, of course, is our Educational Foundation. In recent years Massachusetts and Rhode Island have taken a front place in the work of the Educational Foundation. You are among the 20% who are making use of this fund. It is apparent from the reports that about 80% of all the loans that have been made in recent years have been made by 20% of the Jurisdictions. We want to see you continue those activities and increase the putting out of those loans to worthy applicants.

The other objective is a newer one. It has been referred to here this morning as the work of the Patriotic Activities Committee. There are some who think that you can't crowd patriotism down the throats of individuals. It is not expected of you to do that. At least we can arouse ourselves from an attitude of complacency and help in a positive way to bring the real meaning of allegiance to our country through patriotic activities. Now they say that a Knight Templar or a Mason doesn't need any suggestions of that sort - that he is a good citizen, or ought to be, if he is a Mason. Sometimes we forget the things that we are privileged to enjoy and the things we ought to exercise. We get a little complacent. For example, we don't always go to elections and vote our choice even on minor matters; yet we would raise a great outcry if somebody took that privilege away from us.

We are confronted with this sinister and insidious ideology we call by the name of Communism. There are charges back and forth that they infiltrate our schools, and even the ministry. We don't know, but it is an insidious thing. They form a high-sounding organization and some do join, to their sorrow, and later find out that the purpose was not what it was supposed to be. That is part of their theory, that is part of their strategy - to entice people into these things. Communism denies the one thing that we, as Masons, believe in with all our hearts - the existence of One Supreme Being and the Prince of Peace and the teachings of the Master. They have no use for that. There is an opportunity for us to try to combat some of that influence. As Templars, as Masons, we can be active in counteracting those things. That is something for us to think about. There is room for defense of our public schools,and that is something we believe in as Masons. The work of the public schools should be supported with continuing strength as a free democratic institution. We want your Patriotic Activities Committees to think about those things and help to preserve our American way of life - the greatest ever known. We have been blessed beyond measure by the Almighty in this system of government. We can't be complacent and let those things be taken from us. You must preserve them; you must use them.

Grand Encampment Review:

I have been trying to see that more participate in reading the Grand Encampment Review. It is not intended solely for the members. I advocate that Commanderies subscribe to that magazine. It is 50¢ a quarter, four issues a year. Subscribe to it for your officers.

By the way, one of the most effective ways of promoting your Grand Commandery and your Constituent Commanderies is to have a publication of your own, even if it is only mimeographed. I refer to your publication, "THE TEMPLAR." By putting out these items of news in a very simple way - it needn't be elaborate - you revive the membership and loyalty of your Commanderies.

Demits and Suspensions:

We find over the country entirely too many demits nd suspensions for non-payment of dues. You can prevent an excess in demits and suspensions if you make it interesting for these Knights in the Commandery, by finding something for them to do. You won't have so many say, "Oh, well, what's the sense of paying my dues?" In some Jurisdictions it is getting to be rather appalling. I think that is something we should try to prevent and regain.

Triennial Conclave:

Now we are going to have a big Conclave in New York City in 1955, and we want a great, big, fine Parade. We want our banners, our crosses, our United States flag; we want marching knights with the plumes, with the chapeaus, with the crosses on their swords and their baldrics, and the insignia on their uniforms; to testify to our belief and allegiance to the Prince of Peace, the great Captain of our Salvation. I am hoping when we come to New York in 1955 that we will have a great contingent from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

I have enjoyed my visit to your Grand Conclave,and I know that you are going to uphold the Banner of Templary. You are going to progress, and my own feeling for you,and my own wish, is that you may accomplish all of your worthwhile objectives and continue to lift high the banner of our Christian Order.

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The Chairman of the Membership Committee of Grand Commandery, Sir Knight Frank H. Wilson, R.E.P.G.C., wishes to thank the following remaining Commanderies for adding his name to their mailing list so he will be able to give them proper credit each month for the number of new petitions appearing on their notices: #6,#11, #12, #19, #24, #27, #31, #34, #37, #45 and #46. He now receives all notices from every Commandery except two. He hopes these two will add his name to their list this coming month.

MASONS IN KOREA

Eleven Masons serving with the Second (Indianhead) Division in Korea, formed the Indianhead Square and Compass Club in February, 1952. A year later found this military Masonic Club with more than 100 members - Brethren practicing the principles of the Fraternity under the most difficult conditions and trying circumstances.

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SUM TRICK, HUH!

A man has to be something of a contortionist to amount to anything these days. He has to put his shoulder to the wheel,keep his eye on the ball and ear to the ground with his back to the wall; at the same time he must have both feet on the ground, keep a level head, a stiff upper lip, whistle while he works, and stay in there pitching as he looks for the silver lining with his head in the clouds!

ATTENTION, EMINENT COMMANDERS

Don't forget to fill out and return your REPORT ON THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND GOOD CHEER -- which form was mailed to you on December 26th.

This information is necessary to complete our Right Eminent Grand Commander's Official Order.

THE TEMPLAR wishes all Commanderies and their officers a happy and prosperous NEW YEAR!

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COMMANDERIES

	QUOTA	3 MOS.	DEC.	TOT.
St. Johns	57			
Boston	104	14	3	17
Newburyport	16	3		3
Washington	7	4	1	5
Worcester County	35	5	2	7
Springfield	28	8		8
De Molay	57	27	12	39
Holy Sepulchre	23	3	1	4
Pilgrim	22	2		2
Palestine	9	8		8
Milford	7	6		6
St. Bernard	7	3	1	4
Calvary	31	4	1	5
Haverhill	28	5	4	9
Old Colony	13	1	2	3
Sutton	40	8	3	11
Bethany	7	2		2
Winslow Lewis	10	-	-	-
Jerusalem	18	1	2	3
Hugh de Payens	47	14	1	15
St. Omer	19		1	1
Berkshire	13	2		2
Connecticut Valley	9	4	1	5
Woonsocket	22	5	6	11
God. de Bouillon	12	1	3	4
Joseph Warren	8	5		5
Narragansett	14	3	1	4
Bristol	12	2	1	3
Northampton	8	-	-	-
South Shore	10		4	4
Trinity	18	1		1
Natick	9	3	2	5
Coeur de Lion	28	3		3
Gethsemane	47	2	5	7
Olivet	25	8		8
Athol	7	-	-	-
Bay State	17	2	1	3
Cyprus	8	4		4
St. Paul	12	-	-	-
Beauseant	17	4	4	8
Cambridge	5	6		6
Bethlehem	9	4		4
Orange	5	-	-	-
Ivanhoe	25	-	-	-
Quincy	14	2		2
Temple	17	5	2	7
St. Andrew	10	3		3
Reading	19	3	1	4
T.S. Webb	8	2	5	7
Sir Galahad	7	-	-	-
Total	1000	192	70	262

MONTHLY OBJECTIVES
NECESSARY TO OBTAIN QUOTAS

	Obj.	Actual
Sept.	70	21
Oct.	100	118
Nov.	70	53
Dec.	80	70
Jan.	130	
Feb.	110	
Mar.	130	
Apr.	100	
May	130	
June	80	
	1000	

ACCUMULATIVE

	Obj.	Actual
Sept.	70	21
Oct.	170	139
Nov.	240	192
Dec.	320	262
Jan.	450	
Feb.	560	
Mar.	690	
Apr.	790	
May	920	
June	1000	

COMPARISONS

	1954	1953	1952
Sept.	21	52	97
Oct.	139	129	215
Nov.	192	186	277
Dec.	262	247	352
Jan.		345	484
Feb.		433	583
Mar.		534	730
Apr.		611	852
May		712	952
June		777	1003

Courteously yours,

FRANK H. WILSON,
Chairman New
Membership and
Publicity Committee